

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-28 have been rejected. Claims 1, 9 and 17 are independent claims. Claims 2-8, 26, 10-16, 27 and 18-25, 28 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 9 and 17 respectively.

Listing of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for access point aggregation and resiliency in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the method comprising:

determining, based on at least bandwidth-related information, at least one available switch port on a network switch, for handling a first access point group, wherein said first access point group is communicatively coupled to a first default switch port of said network switch, and wherein said first default switch port is different from said at least one available switch port;

provisioning said at least one available switch port of said network switch to provide service to said first access point group; and

communicating information using at least one of said first default switch port and said at least one provisioned switch port of said network switch.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining comprises selecting said at least one available switch port from a reserved pool of available switch ports of said network switch.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, comprising returning said selected at least one available switch port to said reserved pool of available switch ports upon abatement of a need to utilize said provisioned at least one available switch port of said network switch.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising selecting said at least one available switch port of said network switch from at least one of a first switching element and a second switching element, said first default switch port being associated with said first switching element.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising determining at least a second available switch port of said network switch for handling a second access point group, wherein said second access point group is communicatively coupled to a second default switch port of said network switch, and wherein said second default switch port is different from said at least a second available switch port.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, comprising provisioning at least a third available switch port of said network switch to provide service to said second access point group.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, comprising switching between any two of said at least one available switch port, said at least a second available switch port and said at least a third available switch port of said network switch.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising switching between said default switch port and said at least one available switch port of said network switch in a time period less than on the order of a few milliseconds from at least one of a detectable link failure and a configuration change.

9. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having at least one code section for access point aggregation and resiliency in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the at least one code section executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps comprising:

determining, based on at least bandwidth-related information, at least one available switch port on a network switch, for handling a first access point group, wherein said first access point group is communicatively coupled to a first default switch port of said network switch, and wherein said first default switch port is different from said at least one available switch port;

provisioning said at least one available switch port of said network switch to provide service to said first access point group; and

communicating information using at least one of said first default switch port and said at least one provisioned switch port of said network switch.

10. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said at least one code section comprises code for selecting said at least one available switch port from a reserved pool of available switch ports of said network switch.

11. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, wherein said at least one code section comprises code for returning said selected at least one available switch port to said reserved pool of available switch ports upon abatement of a need to utilize said provisioned at least one available switch port of said network switch.

12. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said at least one code section comprises code for selecting said at least one available switch port of said network switch from at least one of a first switching element and a second switching element, said first default switch port being associated with said first switching element.

13. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said at least one code section comprises code for determining at least a second available switch port of said network switch for handling a second access point group, wherein said second access point group is communicatively coupled to a second default switch port of said network switch, and wherein said second default switch port is different from said at least a second available switch port.

14. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 13, wherein said at least one code section comprises code for provisioning at least a third available switch port of said network switch to provide service to said second access point group.

15. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 14, wherein said at least one code section comprises code for switching between any two of said at least one available switch port, said at least a second available switch port and said at least a third available switch port of said network switch.

16. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said at least one code section comprises code for switching between said default switch port and said at least one available switch port of said network switch in a time period less than on the order of a few milliseconds from at least one of a detectable link failure and a configuration change.

17. (Previously Presented) A system for access point aggregation and resiliency in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the system comprising:

at least one processor operable to determine, based on at least bandwidth-related information, at least one available switch port on a network switch, for handling a first access point group, wherein said first access point group is communicatively coupled to a first default switch port of said network switch, and wherein said first default switch port is different from said at least one available switch port;

said at least one processor operable to provision said at least one available switch port of said network switch to provide service to said first access point group; and

said at least one processor operable to communicate information using at least one of said first default switch port and said at least one provisioned switch port of said network switch.

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said at least one processor is operable to select said at least one available switch port from a reserved pool of available switch ports of said network switch.

19. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 18, wherein said at least one processor is operable to return said selected at least one available switch port to said reserved pool of available switch ports upon abatement of a need to utilize said provisioned at least one available switch port of said network switch.

20. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said at least one processor is operable to select said at least one available switch port of said network switch from at least one of a first switching element and a second switching element, said first default switch port being associated with said first switching element.

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said at least one processor is operable to determine at least ~~one~~ a second available switch port of said network switch handling a second access point group, wherein said second access point group is communicatively coupled to a second default switch port of said network switch, and wherein said second default switch port is different from said at least a second available switch port.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21 wherein said at least one processor is operable to provision at least a third available switch port of said network switch to provide service to said second access point group.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 22, wherein said at least one processor is operable to switch between any two of said at least one available switch port, said at least a second available switch port and said at least a third available switch port of said network switch.

24. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said at least one processor is operable to switch between said default switch port and said at least one available switch port of said network switch in a time period less than on the order of a few milliseconds from at least one of a detectable link failure and a configuration change.

25. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said at least one processor is at least one of a switch processor, a bandwidth management controller, a quality of service controller, a load balancing controller, a session controller and a network management controller.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said bandwidth-related information comprises one or more of Quality of Service (QoS) information, bandwidth policing information, bandwidth management information, load balancing information, roaming information, handover information, access point coordination information, switch coordination information,

channel capacity information, throughput information, access priority information, packet processing information, and/or queuing information.

27. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said bandwidth-related information comprises one or more of Quality of Service (QoS) information, bandwidth policing information, bandwidth management information, load balancing information, roaming information, handover information, access point coordination information, switch coordination information, channel capacity information, throughput information, access priority information, packet processing information, and/or queuing information.

28. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said bandwidth-related information comprises one or more of Quality of Service (QoS) information, bandwidth policing information, bandwidth management information, load balancing information, roaming information, handover information, access point coordination information, switch coordination information, channel capacity information, throughput information, access priority information, packet processing information, and/or queuing information.